

BASIS FOR THE AMENDMENT

The abstract and specification have been amended as supported by the specification and claims as originally filed. A clean copy of the abstract is attached.

The claims have been amended as supported by the claims and specification as originally filed.

Claims 20-22 have been added as supported at page 6, line 15 to page 7, line 8, of the specification.

No new matter is believed to have been added by entry of this amendment. Entry and favorable reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this amendment Claims 1-22 will now be active in this application.

Claims 4 and 5 are withdrawn from consideration.

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Lightfoot for the helpful and courteous discussion with Applicants' Representative on March 4, 2010. Different approaches for distinguishing from Nun et al. (US 20020150724) were discussed.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, as amended, in view of the following remarks.

The objection to the abstract is obviated by the amendment of the abstract.

The objection to the disclosure is obviated by the amendment of the specification.

The rejections of Claims 1-3 and 6-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Nun as well as over Nun in view of Baumann et al are traversed.

The present invention as set forth in **Claim 1** relates to a method for producing a surface,

the method comprising:

fixing microparticles to a carrier layer or a substrate either before or after hydrophobizing of said microparticles;

hydrophobizing said microparticles with component i):

i) a fluorosilane or an oligomer of a fluorosilane,

to form a resulting surface having a surface structure,

the surface structure having elevations which are formed by said microparticles,

said elevations having a mean height of from 20 nm to 25 μm and a mean separation of from 20 nm to 25 μm ,

the microparticles having a particle diameter of from 0.02 to 100 μm and having been hydrophobized with component i);

the resulting surface having self-cleaning, oleophobic, lipophobic and lactophobic properties;

wherein said substrate is a textile.

New Claims 20-22 have been added.

New Claim 20 claims that the hydrophobizing is effected by crosslinking component i) on the particle surface.

New Claim 21 claims that the hydrophobizing is effected by bonding the component i) to the particle surface.

New Claim 22 claims that the component i) is tridecafluoro-1,1,2,2-tetrahydrooctyl-1-triethoxysilane; 3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7,8,8,8-tridecafluoroctyltriethoxyoligo-siloxane; 3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7,8,8,8-tridecafluoroctyltriethoxysilane; or an oligomerized cocondensate of 3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7,8,8,8-tridecafluoroctyltriethoxysilane and 3-amino-propyltriethoxysilane.

In the present invention, the particles are hydrophobicized with a fluorosilane or an oligomer of a fluorosilane in such a way that self-cleaning, oleophobic, lipophobic, and lactophobic properties are obtained *simultaneously* for the resulting surface.

Nun et al. discloses the hydrophobicization of particles in paragraph [0025], in paragraph [0028], the fluorine-containing compounds of the carrier are disclosed, and in paragraphs [0046] and [0047], particles with hydrophobic properties achieved with perfluoroalkylsilanes are disclosed.

However, Nun et al. remain silent about how to achieve *the combination of the properties* as claimed in the present invention.

Further, Nun as well as Nun in view of Baumann et al fail to disclose or suggest a method as claimed in which the substrate is a textile.

Further, the limitations of **Claims 6-22** are not disclosed or suggested by Nun or Nun in view of Baumann et al.

Specifically, there is no disclosure or suggestion in Nun or Nun in view of Baumann et al that the hydrophobizing is effected by crosslinking component i) on the particle surface.

There is no disclosure or suggestion in Nun or Nun in view of Baumann et al that the hydrophobizing is effected by bonding the component i) to the particle surface.

There is no disclosure or suggestion in Nun or Nun in view of Baumann et al that the component i) is tridecafluoro-1,1,2,2-tetrahydrooctyl-1-triethoxysilane; 3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7,8,8,8-tridecafluoroctyltriethoxyoligo-siloxane; 3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7,8,8,8-tridecafluoroctyltriethoxysilane; or an oligomerized cocondensate of 3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7,8,8,8-tridecafluoroctyltriethoxysilane and 3-aminopropyltriethoxysilane.

Therefore, the rejections of Claims 1-3 and 6-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Nun as well as over Nun in view of Baumann et al are believed to be unsustainable as the present invention is neither anticipated nor obvious and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

This application presents allowable subject matter, and the Examiner is kindly requested to pass it to issue. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the claims or otherwise wish to discuss this case, he is kindly invited to contact Applicants' below-signed representative, who would be happy to provide any assistance deemed necessary in speeding this application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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ABSTRACT

A surface is produced by fixing microparticles to a carrier layer or a substrate either before or after hydrophobizing of the microparticles; hydrophobizing the microparticles with component i): a fluorosilane or an oligomer of a fluorosilane, to form a resulting surface having a surface structure. The surface structure has elevations which are formed by the microparticles, the elevations having a mean height of from 20 nm to 25 μ m and a mean separation of from 20 nm to 25 μ m. The microparticles have a particle diameter of from 0.02 to 100 μ m. The resulting surface has self-cleaning, oleophobic, lipophobic and lactophobic properties.